



Week 2: Galatians 1:10-24

GOSPEL MESSENGER

Moving ahead with his letter, Paul emphasizes that the message he delivered wasn't human invention. It didn't originate with other disciples, nor did he simply fabricate it. No, it came directly from God. To underscore this point, he details his conversion experience. His apostleship isn't a result of clever storytelling; it's a testament to his unwavering commitment to the divine message he received.

THE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 1:10-24

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

^c **Cephas** – also recognized as Peter, was one of Jesus' closest apostles.

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LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Consider back to the time before you were a follower of Christ. What kinds of things drove or motivated you? How did those things change over time?
2. What are the biggest changes that knowing Christ has brought into your life?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Autobiographical in nature, these verses of Galatians describe for us how Paul begins his Christian journey. For an expanded version, consider reading Acts 9. In light of what we studied so far in Galatians, why do you think Paul transitions to tell part of his personal story?
4. Reflect on verse 10 and identify one possible motive for distorting the gospel intentionally. What could that motive be?
5. What were some of the driving forces in Paul's life before his conversion? Consider back to the time before you were a follower of Christ. What kinds of things drove or motivated you? How did those things change over time?
6. Once again personally looking back, in what ways can you see how God worked in your life before you came to Christ, getting you ready to serve the Lord after you gave your life to him?
7. Paul's coming to Christ was unique for several reasons. Considering verses 11 through 19, list out some of those reasons.

8. Looking at verses 18-24, How does Paul pile up additional evidence that he was not unduly influenced by the apostles or others?

9. Imagine a dear friend of yours has just given their life to Christ and read these verses. He or she turns to you and asks, "Since Paul didn't interact with other believers early in his faith journey, does that mean I shouldn't either?" How would you respond?

10. Consider verses 23 and 24. Why do you think the churches of Judea were glorifying God because of Paul? Reflecting personally, how could that also be true in your life within your context? What dramatic change could occur within you that others would notice and praise God for?

11. Think of someone you know who has undergone an enormous change in his or her life. How can you tell whether that change has been brought about by God or was the result of human effort?